

PATENT
Docket: K35A1043**REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended. Claims 1-14 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-14 and rejected claims 5 and 12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In this response, Applicant has:

- 1) amended claims 5 and 12; and
- 2) requested a 1-month extension of time.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH:

With reference to claims 5 and 12, the Examiner alleges that the limitation “disengaged” is inconsistent with the limitation “the locking spring arm engages the hub when no current is applied to the stator coil” as set forth in each respective independent claim from which claims 5 and 12 depend; for example, see lines 8-9 in independent claim 1.

In order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, Applicant has amended claims 5 and 12 by reciting that “ a portion of the locking spring arm is non-elastic ...” (emphasis added by Applicant); see e.g., page 5, lines 3-5 of the specification in conjunction with Fig. 2C for support. There, an alternative embodiment is disclosed and claimed in claims 5 and 12, respectively, in which a portion, such as material 30, of a locking spring arm is non-elastic, so that the locking spring arm, such as locking spring arm 18, remains disengaged from the hub, such as hub 16, when the current applied to the stator coil, such as stator coil 12A, is turned off. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the alleged inconsistency does not exist and that claims 5 and 12 comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 12 are definite and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 112, second paragraph, rejections.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims 1-14 are now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the rejections. Allowance of claims 1-14 at an early date is respectfully solicited.

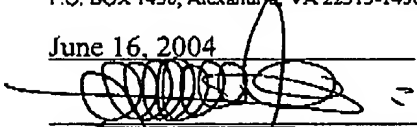
Date: 6/16/04

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted, or deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to: The Commissioner of Patents, U.S. PATENTS & TRADEMARK OFFICE, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

June 16, 2004
Sandra Genua, Patent Paralegal